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March 8, 2004

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Dear Provider:

This letter provides important information about changes to the Medicaid Pharmacy Program, including the implementation of new drug prior authorization (PA) requirements.

**New Requirements for Proton Pump Inhibitors, Effective March 16, 2004:**

- The proton pump inhibitor (PPI) Prilosec OTC 10mg tablet is the preferred PPI and does not require prior authorization.
- Prevacid 15mg and 30mg capsules have been selected as the preferred prior authorization products that can be used if Prilosec OTC clinically fails or if there can be a medical reason established for not providing Prilosec OTC.
- Once Prevacid 15mg or 30mg capsules are approved and prescribed through the PA process they will be provided for up to 3 months of therapy.
- All other PPI's will require documented clinical failure or documented medical justification for not prescribing Prevacid 15mg or 30mg capsules before they can be approved for up to 3 months of therapy.
- The requirements for PPI therapy after 3 months remain essentially unchanged with substitution of the preferred product of Prevacid in place of Protonix.
- Recipients in a long term care facility are not exempt from the PPI criteria

**Dose Optimization Guidelines Approved for Tablet Splitting, Effective March 16, 2004:**

- Tablet splitting for select products and strengths will be required.
- The following criteria have been established for three products at this time.
- Celexa 10mg and Zoloft 25mg require Prior Authorization (PA).
- Lexapro 10mg also requires a PA and has maximum daily limit of 1 tablet.

- Celexa 20mg and Zoloft 50mg has a maximum daily limit of 0.5 tablet with a monthly maximum of 18 units.
- Lexapro 20mg has a maximum daily limit of 1 tablet per day.
- Celexa 40mg has a maximum daily limit of 1.5 tablets with a monthly maximum of 48 units.
- Zoloft 100mg has a maximum daily limit of 2 tablets.
- Recipients residing in Long Term Care facilities are excluded from the criteria.

#### **Bulletin Board for Pharmacy Providers**

- The Bulletin Board is a system that allows providers to look up NDC information as well as submit Medicaid EMC claims; download Remittance Advice; download file specifications; and download data entry software. Utilizing a dial-up connection from a computer system, the user can access these features 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- The NDC lookup feature, which is updated monthly, allows users to search for NDC information using drug name, NDC number, or therapeutic class. This feature allows a pharmacy to verify whether a specific NDC number is cored without having to contact Provider Relations. Pharmacies can access this information by calling the EMC Help Desk (1-800-205-4696), obtaining an ID, and then logging on and navigating to the selection desired.

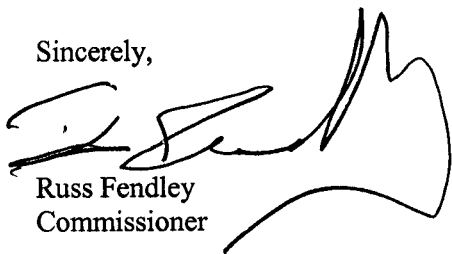
#### **Internet Web Site**

- Medicaid's web site at <http://chs.ky.gov/dms/> provides information about the Medicaid Pharmacy Program and related topics such as pharmacy provider letters, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Advisory Committee meetings and recommendations, Drug Management Review Advisory Board meetings and recommendations. You are encouraged to use this web site.

#### **Contact Information:**

| <u>For Questions About</u>       | <u>Contact</u>                | <u>Phone</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Previously sent drug PA requests | Prior Authorization Help Desk | 800-807-1273 |
| Billing of pharmacy claims       | Provider Relations            | 800-807-1232 |
| This letter or Medicaid policies | Pharmacy Department           | 502-564-7940 |

Sincerely,



Russ Fendley  
Commissioner